

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2002-356-W - ORDER NO. 2003-29
JANUARY 17, 2003

IN RE: Application of Wyboo Plantation Utilities,)
Inc. for Extension of its Service Area to)
Include Granada Subdivision and Cedar Hill)
Subdivision Located in Sumter County, South)
Carolina.)

ORDER APPROVING
EXTENSION OF
SERVICE AREA

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Wyboo Plantation Utilities, Inc. (Wyboo or the Company) for an extension of its service area to include Granada subdivision and Cedar Hill subdivision, located in Sumter County, South Carolina. The Company requests that it be allowed to provide service pursuant to the terms, conditions, rates and charges set forth in its existing rate schedule, and as may change from time to time as a result of any proceedings that might be brought before the Commission by the Company. The presently approved rates for Wyboo are a monthly water usage rate of \$18.00 per month, and a monthly irrigation usage rate of \$10.00 per month (April through September only).

Pursuant to the instructions of the Commission's Executive Director, the Company published a Notice of Filing one time in newspapers of general circulation, and notified all affected customers. Proof of publication was provided by the Company. No Petitions to Intervene were filed. One Protest was received, but it was later withdrawn.

Subsequently, the Company filed verified written testimony and moved for expedited review of the Application. We grant expedited review of the Application, and we also grant the Application as filed, pursuant to the reasoning stated below.


Wyboo's owner, Mark Wrigley purchased the two water systems in the two subdivisions at issue in 2002. The previous owner did not charge for water as a separate line item, i.e. it was included in the rent. The Granada subdivision has a total of 64 lots. Cedar Hill has a total of 55 lots. Mark Wrigley's verified testimony states that Wyboo has replaced four submersible pumps, motors, and electrical controls, and has repaired several undetected leaks in the systems. Apparently, several service taps and risers are in need of replacing. To date, the Company has invested \$9,650 per subdivision for repairs/replacements to the water systems' infrastructure, according to Wrigley.

This Commission, in 26 S.C. Regs. 103-704 (Supp. 2002) requires any public utility that wishes to acquire additional utility systems or extend its system to obtain a certificate from the Commission that the acquisition is in the public interest, or that the public convenience and necessity require operation of any extension. Clearly, Wyboo has met the criteria imposed by the regulation, and the required certificate should be granted. It is apparent that the water systems in the two subdivisions were in need of major repairs which were not made until Wyboo acquired the systems. Wyboo has made major needed repairs to the systems, as shown by Wrigley's verified testimony, and has made a considerable investment in the two water systems. We hold that the acquisitions of the two systems by Wyboo are certainly in the public interest accordingly, and that, further,

the public convenience and necessity require the operation of the extensions. It appears that the systems in the two subdivisions were definitely in need of improvement so as to better furnish the water services to the residents of the subdivisions. We therefore grant the required certificate for the reasons herein discussed. The acquisitions/extensions by Wyboo are therefore approved. The Company may charge its presently approved rates in the two named subdivisions.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Mignon L. Clyburn
Chairman

ATTEST:



Gary E. Walsh
Executive Director

(SEAL)